

Attorney Docket No.: **UT-0003**
Inventors: **Rao et al.**
Serial No.: **09/073,881**
Filing Date: **May 6, 1998**
Page 2

fee are provided herewith. Please enter the following remarks and amendments into the record.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9-13 and 16, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1 and 15 as follows:

1. (amended) A method for generating mammalian neural crest stem cells comprising:

(a) obtaining mammalian neuroepithelial stem cells derived from the neural tube from a mammalian embryo at a stage of embryonic development after closure of the neural tube by:

(i) removing a sample of neural tube tissue from a mammal at a stage of embryonic development after closure of the neural tube;

(ii) dissociating cells comprising the sample of neural tube tissue removed from the mammal; and

(iii) plating the dissociated cells in feeder-cell-independent culture on a substratum and in a media comprising fibroblast growth factor and chick embryo extract so that mammalian neuroepithelial stem cells are obtained;

(b) harvesting the mammalian neuroepithelial stem cells by

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Page 3

trypsinization; and

(c) replating the neuroepithelial stem cells onto a fibronectin substrate and in a media comprising chick embryo extract, NGF, FGF and EGF to generate neural crest stem cells.

15. (amended) A method for generating rat neural crest stem cells comprising:

(a) obtaining rat neuroepithelial stem cells derived from the neural tube from a rat embryo at a stage of embryonic development after closure of the neural tube by:

(i) removing a sample of neural tube tissue from a rat at a stage of embryonic development after closure of the neural tube;

(ii) dissociating cells comprising the sample of neural tube tissue removed from the rat; and

(iii) plating the dissociated cells in feeder-cell-independent culture on a substratum and in a media comprising fibroblast growth factor and chick embryo extract so that rat neuroepithelial stem cells are obtained;

(b) harvesting the rat neuroepithelial stem cells by trypsinization; and

(c) replating the rat neuroepithelial stem cells onto a